Post 12-30-71

Judge Rejects Berrigans' Rights Suit

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 29 (UPI)—A U.S. judge has dismissed a suit filed by antiwar priest Daniel Berrigan and 10 other inmates at the Danbury federal prison who charged their constitutional rights were violated by prison officials in a hunger strike.

Without speculating about the plaintiffs' motives, the prison authorities could not sit idly by while the plaintiffs, in a headlong rush toward martyrdom, reveled in their self-inflicted risk to their health," Chief U.S. District Court Judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld said in a 32-page memorandum which rejected the prisoners' suit.

The inmates claimed their rights were violated as a result of their four-week hunger strike that began Aug. 6.

Berrigan and his brother, the Rev. Philip Berrigan, are serving sentences at Danbury for burning draft board records.